

BRINGING CHURCHES TOGETHER TO IMPACT
LOSTNESS IN OUR COMMUNITIES & TO THE
ENDS OF THE EARTH

Forerunner

"Church Awaken"

Joel 2:12-14



Merry Christmas!

from the TBA Staff & Officers

Please update your email contact for the association.

The correct email address is

transylvaniabaptist@gmail.com.

We are having technical issues with the old *tba@tbanc.org* emails,
and may not receive your information. Thanks!



Transylvania Baptist Association

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Rev. Terry Stockman - Association Missions Strategist

James Felty - Moderator

Rev. Michael Childers - Vice Moderator

Angie Bryson - Treasurer

Nancy Kilpatrick - Clerk

December 2024
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TERRY'S THOUGHTS



Well, here we are at the end of 2024. It has been an eventful year to say the least and He has truly been busy with His children here in Transylvania Baptist Association. In addition to the normal business of assisting our member churches, we have faced some significant challenges that have tried to derail us from achieving our goals. As I mentioned in my annual report to the association, despite the enemy's attempts to derail the ministry of our association, we have in fact been strengthened through these challenges and I would submit that they have brought us closer together.

Before I describe our challenges and discuss how they have affected us in 2024, please allow me to highlight some of the victories we have experienced in 2024. The following are some of the more significant victories I wish to highlight:

- I am convinced we have grown closer as an association during 2024. While there is still much work needed in this area we have and are making progress in drawing closer together.
- It appears our Baptisms will be up again this year; however, we won't know the final numbers until after the new year begins. Due to the new reporting deadlines on the ACPs, closing the books on 2024 at the end of January 2025 will tell us how we did in the area of baptisms.
- We were able to complete our first associational mission trip to our ministry partners in Pennsylvania (PA) this past Summer. Individual partnerships with our member churches and the new works in PA will be a focus in 2025, but some of the partnering between churches and new works has already begun.
- I have had an opportunity to serve our member churches through speaking, training, and teaching throughout 2024. Many of our churches have taken advantage of training opportunities provided through the association along with three search teams having received very important training as they are on the journey of seeking God's will for their next pastor.

There are so many other types of service available to our churches and we stand ready to share them with you as you have need. We will continue to serve you regardless of what our common enemy attempts to do to derail our ministry! Now, please allow me to briefly describe the two most significant challenges facing us in 2025:

The first of these two significant challenges we faced is our continuing budget shortfalls. As mentioned in my Annual Meeting Report, we began to notice a building shortfall in general budget giving after the May budget report. We noticed that the giving from our member churches was not keeping pace with the budget needs of the association. Once we notified our pastors and churches it became evident that we were going to have to make some significant changes in order to continue the work moving forward. There were a number of suggestions, including selling the building, that were brought forward. The Administrative Support Team (AST) began immediately seeking God's wisdom in prayer, sharpening their pencils, and discussing the input received from pastors as well as church members on how to rectify the budget problem.

To your credit some of our member churches were able to increase their giving and we have managed to tighten our belts by cutting back on unnecessary spending. The sacrifices made have not diminished our ability to serve you and in fact we have been able to work harder on your behalf than ever before. While having to dip into our reserves three times in 2024, we have actually finished our year, through October, in relatively good shape. Obviously, a continued need to dip into our reserves will not be sustainable without drastic adjustments either in budget giving or cuts in more significant areas such as personnel. Only God knows what we need to do and we are trusting Him to guide us. I ask that you join us in praying for God's will to be done!

The second significant challenge we faced in 2024 was named hurricane Helene. This almost once in a life time storm has literally changed the lives of many and a full recovery is still quite some time away. This unforeseen storm forced us to roll up our sleeves and begin serving each other and those most affected by the storm in our communities. What our enemy meant for harm God meant for His good. It was His good that has been experienced here in our association. We were able to highlight many of those good efforts during our annual meeting and the stories yet to be told will reveal just how powerful God is and how wonderful God's people are. Finally, in addition to the gospel conversations had and the souls that have been won to the Lord, a new ministry has sprung from the aftermath of this storm and we discovered we are much better together than alone. I am excited to see just how much the Lord will accomplish through His church in the months and years to come.

My final thoughts for 2024 are on you. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord let us not forget that the gospel is still needed by so many here in our county. It is still true that the very reason the gift of Jesus was given was for His church to share that gift with all they come in contact with. Remember that Greta and I love you and have enjoyed being with the TBA in 2024. Additionally, on behalf of Greta, myself, and Nancy, we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and an amazing 2025!!!!

Terry

**Please pray for our churches
without pastors:
Boylston, Enon, Rocky Hill**

Christmas Banquet for Pastors & Their Wives

Monday, December 9 - 6pm

Cherryfield Baptist Church

Please call or email the Baptist Center to sign up to attend no later than Monday, December 2. Each person is asked to bring an inexpensive wrapped gift to exchange. Funds for the banquet are provided by designated gifts for pastor hospitality, and will not impact the TBA budget.



Association Financial Summary October 2024

	Current	Year-to-Date
Biltmore Brevard	\$ 0	\$ 3,750.00
Blantyre	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,250.00
Blue Ridge	\$ 75.00	\$ 750.00
Boylston	\$ 0	\$ 4,502.27
Brevard First	\$ 1,124.78	\$11,214.49
Calvary	\$ 973.69	\$ 5,563.31
Carr's Hill	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,500.00
Carson's Creek	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,500.00
Cathey's Creek	\$ 232.00	\$ 1,908.00
Cedar Mountain	\$ 400.00	\$ 3,328.00
Cherryfield	\$ 0	\$ 3,038.87
Church at Sapphire	\$ 0	\$ 0
Cove Church	\$ 0	\$ 125.00
Dunn's Rock	\$ 0	\$ 5,415.96
East Fork	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
Enon	\$ 0	\$ 2,400.00
Faith Missionary	\$ 0	\$ 0
Grace	\$ 0	\$ 3,076.71
Hope Church Brevard (See Off)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Lake Toxaway	\$ 263.35	\$ 956.53
La Primera Mission	\$ 0	\$ 0
Little River	\$ 1,035.50	\$ 4,142.00
Middle Fork	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,200.00
Morningside	\$ 109.20	\$ 1,976.52
Mt. Moriah-Calvert	\$ 0	\$ 0
New Hope	\$ 0	\$ 0
North Toxaway	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 2,050.00
Oak Grove	\$ 0	\$ 1,500.00
Pisgah Forest	\$ 1,331.89	\$ 7,176.85
Rocky Hill	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,000.00
Temple	\$ 131.25	\$ 1,312.50
Turkey Creek	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,900.00
Zion	\$ 1,227.43	\$ 2,634.51
Miscellaneous	\$ 0	\$ 3,750.00
Checking Interest	\$ 4.15	\$ 28.63
Total Receipts	\$10,133.24	\$ 86,150.15
Total Expenses	\$11,157.69	\$115,945.24

2024 Budget \$149,879.00
 Needed Monthly to Meet Budget \$12,490.00

2024 Annual Congregation Profiles

Extensive changes to the ACP have been made by the Baptist State Convention. A much simpler form along with moving to a calendar year of reporting are being implemented, and reporting will now be completed in January.

- ♦ A training session for church clerks will be held Tuesday, December 17 at 1pm at the Baptist Center.
- ♦ The reporting year will be January 1st through December 31st of 2024, with Baptisms and Memorials for the period of September 1st through December 31st of 2023 included in the 2024 statistics.

Church News

Boylston - all services are currently being held in the Fellowship Hall due to flood damage in the Sanctuary building. Sundays at 11am & 6pm, Wednesdays at 6pm.

Brevard First Baptist - is seeking a teacher and assistant for the preschool. For more info please contact Joy Guffey at 828-883-9839 or email firstbaptistweeschool@gmail.com.

Enon - is seeking a pianist/music leader. For more info please call the church at 828-877-4418.

Morningside - has several 4-foot fluorescent light fixtures free to a good home. Call the church for more info at 828-883-2081.

Pisgah Forest - is seeking a part-time music director. For more info please contact Gene Parker at 828-508-9142.

Rocky Hill - is seeking a worship leader. For more info please contact Clint Owings at 828-883-9707 or cbowings@me.com.

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am Walters Anniversary (Cedar Mountain)	4	5 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Week of Prayer - Lottie Moon Christmas Offering - December 1-8						
8	9 Pastors Christmas Banquet Cherryfield 6pm	10 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am	11 Wally McCall Birthday (Mt. Moriah) Mullis Anniversary (North Toxaway)	12 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am	13 Bill Voorhes Birthday (TBA Retired)	14
15	16	17 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am ACP Training for Church Clerks 1pm	18 Kyle Reese Birthday (Faith)	19 Weekly Prayer Baptist Center 9am Jami Reese Birthday (Faith)	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
Baptist Center Closed						
29	30	31 Weekly Prayer North Toxaway 7am New Years Eve	Coming in January: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Executive Board Meeting - Rocky Hill Tuesday, January 14th 			

Update from Our Pennsylvania Partners

Thank you for all your prayers throughout this year. Below are a couple of financial opportunities to partner with a church plant:



Cam is a church planter with 5 kids in Corry, who is raising financial support so that he can go full time into planting the church.

2025 goal - \$60,000

<https://harvestcorry.org>

cam@harvestcorry.org / 814-462-5693

United Awakening Baptist Church, who ministers to the Congolese community in Pittsburgh, is raising funds for a minivan to take people to church as well as weekly Bible studies. Please pray for a church planter to the Congolese community in Lancaster.

2025 goal - \$20,000

<https://unitedabchurch.org/pitsbuger-pennsylvania/>

celestinmapagaze686@gmail.com / 412-580-7431



Micah works for Disciplemakers, and is praying about starting a church in the Annville area. He and Cali are in the process of raising funds so that Cali can work with Micah full time.

2025 goal - \$12,000

micah.natal@dm.org / 484-721-1649

CELEBRATIONS



Pablo baptizing a new believer!
Inglesia Electric City

Worship service in Bhim's church plant



*Lebanon Baptist Church, 4635
Hicone Rd, Greensboro, NC 27405
Tuesday, January 21st, 2025*

<https://ncbaptist.org/events/revitalizenc-start-here/>



*Fort Caswell, 100 Caswell Beach Road,
Oak Island, NC 28465*

Friday, Jan. 31st - Sunday, Feb. 2nd, 2025
<https://ncbaptist.org/events/college-discipleship-conference/>



Within the steep hills, deep valleys, and the branches, streams, and hollows in western North Carolina, there is a light shining: God's Light! And this light shines through Christ followers, through His church.

I believe that God's children have within them the strongest light in the universe, if they will let it shine. This is our purpose, to let the light of Jesus Christ shine. ("Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16)



There is a desire in each of us for our lives to matter, to have meaning or purpose. Having a sense of purpose has been shown to be critical to our well-being: physically, emotionally and spiritually. As Christians, we know the truth. Nothing on earth can fully satisfy our longing for meaning; that is nothing but Jesus Christ, our Lord. There is an emptiness within us, a longing for something more. Something greater. God made us this way. ("For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10)

A few months ago, Pastor Cannon and his wife, Windy, of Pine Branch Baptist Church in Spruce Pine asked North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM) to partner with their church to strengthen their senior adult ministry within their church and in the community. They were intentional and committed. I love the title they chose for their ministry, "Shining the Light."

Their ministry focuses on three outreaches: a DME closet (durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers), a senior day celebration, and smoke alarm installations. DME loan closets are much needed in almost every community. NCBAM provided assistance in the startup of their loan closet by helping to develop the written procedures for operation and by providing startup DME.



Mission: Dignity
A ministry of GuideStone®

Many Pastors, workers and widows who spent their lives sharing the hope of the Gospel are in need of encouragement this holiday season.

Join us in sending

Christmas Cards

to let them know they are not forgotten

1. Reply to this email (Hannah.Reynolds@Guidestone.org) with a note saying how many cards you would like to send.
2. Receive an email with Mission:Dignity Recipients' names and addresses.
3. Purchase or make a Christmas card(s).
4. Send your note with love!

Ready to go! IMB Missionaries Train Global Partners to Reach the World



The old man threw out his fishing line and sat back to contemplate. He hadn't lived a perfect life. When Li Qing needed extra luck or blessing, he prayed to his ancestors. If he was being honest though, they didn't offer a path to forgiveness. But what did?

He mused over the question until the long afternoon shadows signaled it was time to eat at his son's restaurant. Instead of feeling relaxed and enlightened, his heart felt heavy as he walked the short distance. He opened the door and overheard his son speaking to Mei Li, a Taiwanese global missionary partner. She proclaimed God made a way to forgive everyone's sins.

Li Qing listened closely. Mei Li shared about a God who loved the world and sent His own Son to pay the price for sin. He knew immediately this was the answer to his question. He, his son, and another family member all chose to follow Christ. "I was so moved," Mei Li shared afterward at an evangelism training debrief. "Our God listens to every prayer and knows our hearts. He prepared us at the right time to reap the harvest and I was so happy."

Mei Li is one of six Taiwanese global mission partners commissioned and funded by Taiwanese Baptists to spend two years serving with International Mission Board teams in other parts of Asia and Africa. This team of six is spending the first part of their time training with IMB missionaries Jonathan and Tommie Anne Guffey in eastern Taiwan.

"Sharing the gospel is not just a pastor's job, and not just a missionary's job. It's every believer's job."

The IMB knows it cannot reach those who have never heard the gospel alone. It takes local ownership of the Great Commission to fulfill the Revelation 7:9 vision. Veteran missionaries like the Guffeys gladly share their knowledge and train these global mission partners before sending them to join another IMB team in Africa. The goal is to mobilize 500 of these partners from different countries by 2025.

Mei Li's experience with the Qing family was part of her team's training on a simple three-minute gospel presentation. Each day, the team went out in the eastern Taiwan community to share. They also learned how to train local church leaders to do the same. Together, they shared the good news over 500 times in three months and prayed with over 100 people who decided to follow Christ.

The team worked among 16 indigenous tribes in the area. The Guffeys, who recently moved to east Taiwan, modeled how to build relationships within a new community. Even the languages of the local tribes were different from what most of the team knew, giving them a much-needed cross-cultural experience involving language barriers.

Jonathan said his purpose was to give the Taiwanese global mission partners a healthy church planting DNA. He knows that often these partners can access people and places that Western missionaries, like him, cannot. Mentoring these partners laid the foundation of taking the good news to those who have never heard — whether it is to the far reaches of the world or their own country.

Through this training the young team discovered the hearts of the people in east Taiwan were ready for the gospel. Xunyi Wang, global mission partner, encouraged local church members to continue the task of sharing. "Even though we're about to leave for other countries, we hate to part with east Taiwan and we hope you will continue sharing the gospel," Wang said. "Sharing the gospel is not just a pastor's job, and not just a missionary's job. It's every believer's job." Jonathan nodded his head, excited to hear this statement. It's exactly the mindset he and Tommie Ann hoped to instill during the global mission partner training. When it came time for the team to leave, he wanted them prepared to join God at work through a missionary presence that cultivates gospel access, gospel belief and church planting and multiplication.

Article courtesy International Mission Board
Stories of Transformation
www.imb.org

WHERE DO PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR THE GOSPEL? EVERYWHERE.

Each green dot on this map represents 50,000 lost people.

Every day, more than 174,000 of them will die without Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Will you join us in the Great Pursuit of taking the gospel to the lost — wherever we find them?



imb.org/greatpursuit

Note: Representative map based on population density data and IMB Global Research evangelical estimates.



INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD



WEEK OF PRAYER *for International Missions*

DECEMBER 1-8, 2024

WMU®



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